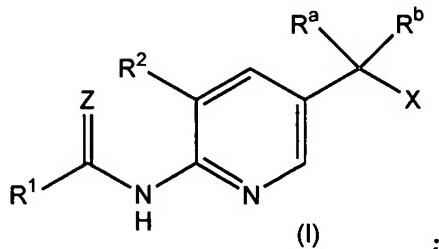


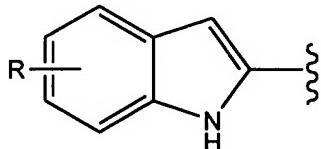
In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



a stereoisomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or stereoisomer, wherein:

R¹ is



wherein R represents, independently, from 1-3 of hydrogen; -NH₂; -CN; -NO₂; halogen; -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy;

R² is -(C₁-C₆)alkoxy;

R^a and R^b are -CH₃ or -OH, provided R^a and R^b are not both -OH;

X is -CH₂OH; -COOR^c, wherein R^c is hydrogen or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or -CON(heterocycloalkyl), said heterocycloalkyl moiety being selected from the group consisting of azabicycloheptanyl, azetidinyl, benzazepinyl, 1,3-dihydroisoindolyl, carbazolyl, indolinyl, imidazolidinyl, morpholinyl, phenothiazinyl, phenoxazinyl, piperazinyl, piperidyl, pyrazolidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydroisoindolyl, tetrahydroisoquinolinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl, tetrahydroquinoxaliny, tetrahydro-2H-1,4-thiazinyl, and thiomorpholinyl; and

Z is O or S.

2. (previously presented) A compound of claim 1, wherein:

R is halogen;

R² is -OCH₂CH₃;

R^a is -CH₃ and R^b is -OH;

X is -CH₂OH or -COOR^c, wherein R^c is hydrogen or -(C₁-C₆)alkyl; and

Z is O.

3. (previously presented) A compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

5-chloro-1H-indole-2-carboxylic acid-[5-(1,2-dihydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl)-3-ethoxy-pyridin-2-yl]-amide;

2-{6-[(5-chloro-1H-indole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-5-ethoxy-pyridin-3-yl}-2-hydroxy-propionic acid; and

2-{6-[(5-chloro-1H-indole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-5-ethoxy-pyridin-3-yl}-2-hydroxy-propionic acid ethyl ester, a stereoisomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or stereoisomer.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, a stereoisomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or stereoisomer; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, or diluent.

Claims 7-9 (canceled)